Shrimp Farming along the Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Kerala

2103. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that more and more coastal farmers are taking to shrimp farming along the coastal Andhra Pradesh and Kerala;

(b) whether this unprecedented aquaculture boom has caught up traditional paddy growers along the coastal districts; thereby diverting paddy fields for aquaculture farming threatening a steep fall in paddy production; and

(c) whether this over-exploitation of traditional paddy fields for aqua-culture farming would damage the ecological balance along the coast; and if so, what steps Government propose to take to regulate conversion of agricultural land for shrimp farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It has been reported that the extent of conversion of paddy fields into fish farms in the coastal districts is very negligible as compared to the area under agriculture and the decline in paddy production, if any, cannot be mainly attributed to the conversion of paddy lands for aquaculture. It is also reported that the extent of impact on paddy fields due to the conversion of agricultural land to fish ponds is very little and the ecological imbalance, if any, can be rectified through improved methods of agricultural production.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Commissioner, Land Revenue for studying these issues.

Acquisition of Aircraft for Locust cont

2104. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTA Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE pleased to refer to the answer to Uns red Question 133 given in the Ra Sabha on 3rd December, 1993 and sta

(a) whether Government propose acquire different types of aircraft locust control measures as well as cr survey operations and cloud seeding bring artificial rains; and

(b) if so, what progress has been ma by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TI MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTION ENERGY RESOURCES AND TI MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MIN TRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) T erstwhile Agricultural Aviation Wing v transferred to the Ministry of Civil Av tion and Tourism in May, 1987 and si sequently to Vayudoot Limited in Janua 1988. A proposal to place the Agricultu Aviation Wing under the administrat control of Ministry of Agriculture under consideration.

Visit of World Bank Team in Assam

2105. SHRI TARA CHARAN M JUMDAR: Will the Minister of AGI CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-member Wo Bank team made a visit to some distri in Assam to examine the implmentat of the agricultural development pr ramme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the World Bank will lease aid for development programmes this State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TI MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTION ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MIN TER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Wo Bank team visited Assam from Octol